

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 16, 2021

The Honorable Michael Connor  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446  
Washington, DC 203104

The Honorable Shalanda Young  
Acting Director  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Assistant Secretary Connor and Acting Director Young,

We write to request that funding for the construction of a downstream fish passage facility at Howard A. Hanson Dam (HAHD) be prioritized from funding made available to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) appropriated under Title III – Construction of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*. Completing the downstream fish passage facility would ensure drinking water storage capacity, continue to protect the Green River Valley from flooding, and reopen over 60 miles of prime habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed salmon and steelhead populations, which also support the endangered Southern Resident orca population.

In February 2019, the Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration agreed to the Howard A. Hanson Dam Biological Opinion (BiOp) which outlined the Corps' responsibility to design and construct a downstream fish passage facility to improve the recovery of salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act and uphold the federal government's treaty and trust responsibilities to Native American Tribes. The BiOp requires an operational downstream fish passage facility by 2030 and funding is needed to commence construction and meet this obligation. Securing funding for construction will also leverage significant investments made by non-federal partners and complete a multi-benefit infrastructure project that could make the largest single gain in salmon production in Puget Sound.

Downstream fish passage at HAHD is an urgent priority that is supported by members of Washington's federal Congressional delegation, the state of Washington, and local governments. Completion of this significant water storage and ecosystem restoration project that will benefit communities and critically threatened species in Washington state. It is vital that funding for construction of this fish passage facility at HAHD is prioritized by the Corps.

Sincerely,



Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress